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Miller is a well-known teacher at Howard University, Washington. He is frank in recognizing the weaknesses of his race and criticizes leaders and policies which do not approve themselves to him without reserve. In fairness in this respect he goes beyond any Negro writer I know. He is not subservient to the whites and demands the same fair treatment he accords them. Because of these qualities, coupled with the author's knowledge of the situation, I consider the book one of the most important yet written by a Negro.

The opening chapter on Radicals and Conservatives is one of the best expositions of the divergent development among Negroes I have seen. Few whites realize the significance of the Niagara Movement or understand the opposition to Booker Washington. To the rest this chapter is commended. "As to the Leopard's Spots" is an open letter to Mr. Thomas Dixon, while "The Appeal to Reason on the Race Problem" was written to Mr. John Temple Graves of Atlanta, after the riots. "The Negro's Part in the Negro Problem" calls attention to the neglect of the Negro's own position so often noticed in writings of whites. Other important chapters deal with "The City Negro;" "Surplus Negro Women," etc. Some of the latter chapters are more literary in nature.

The volume closes with a chapter on "Roosevelt and the Negro" which gains interest by comparison with a similar chapter in Mr. Stone's book reviewed in this number. In this chapter alone it seems to me the author loses his balance and fails to understand at all the significance of events. Here again we get the interpretation that the appointment of negro politicians to office has a racial, rather than an individual political, significance while every act of punishment involving Negroes seems to carry opprobrium to the race instead of being based on the acts of individuals. It is thus amusing to find Senator Foraker held up as the champion of the negroes and Roosevelt dethroned and hated by the race.

The author's style is good, though at times a bit rambling with some tendency to "fine writing."

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**Montgomery, H. E.** *Vital American Problems.* Pp. v, 384. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The author states that his book is "an attempt to solve the 'Trust,' 'Labor' and 'Negro' problems." This is rather an ambitious program for one man in one book and invites criticism easily avoided by a more modest statement. *A priori* the student expects from such a book only general statements and solutions usually proposed in terms of the ethics on which our society and our religion are supposedly based. This does not imply that the thoughts may not be well taken but that one hardly expects new light to be shed.

The method is to state the problem briefly, then tell of the accompanying evils, finally pointing out the solution. The trusts are first considered. They spring out of the desire to co-operate and are therefore valuable. The dangers are: capitalization in excess of real value; monopoly whether of natural

resources or because of the tariff. The question of control now arises. State control has proved to be futile, so we must look to the nation. The developments which led to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the pure food laws, etc., are traced. The solution is found in national incorporation for all corporations doing interstate business, such corporations to be under the control of the Bureau of Corporations of the Department of Commerce and Labor. The incorporation tax should be one-tenth of one per cent of all stock issued. The liability of stockholders and directors to be carefully arranged, complete annual reports to be filed and the corporation carefully inspected annually. The property of the corporation should be subject to local taxation. The expenses of the Bureau of Corporations to be met by the incorporation tax, and a charge for inspection to be paid by the corporations. Save in details this plan is often urged. The author states the case well and supports his arguments by many citations.

Ten pages are given to the Freight Rate Problem. This, Mr. Montgomery believes, will be easily solved if the above suggestions are carried out.

Some ninety pages are taken for the discussion of the question of Government Ownership. The author cites instance after instance where municipal ownership has proven a failure. In this policy Mr. Montgomery does not believe. Instead he would have a State Corporation Department having "absolute charge and complete control of its natural corporate children and over all the operations of its adopted children within its jurisdiction." The charter tax is to be the same as for national incorporation property locally taxed and corporations regularly inspected. There should be also a graduated profit tax and a ten year averaging of same.

Seventy pages are devoted to the "labor problem." Inasmuch as labor organizations grow from the same conditions as the trusts and the public is injured because of the labor disputes, not to mention destruction of property, there should be compulsory arbitration. Trade agreements Mr. Montgomery does not think will be satisfactory in the long run. He advocates an "Industrial Court" with power to establish a minimum wage.

The last topic is the "Negro Problem" to which over one hundred and fifty pages are given. This is the poorest section in the book. The author has plenty of ideas which are good. He shows, however, no intimate acquaintance with the actual living conditions of the negro or with the best literature on the subject. His discussion is in general terms, education, justice, religion, etc., being emphasized. That education is necessary needs no argument. All will agree that the negro must be superior to his competitors if he is ultimately to survive. No one now knows just what would be the result if immigrants from Europe should enter the South. The suffrage should not be taken from the Negro and the South must learn that this does not involve social equality. The national government should co-operate with local agencies to better the educational system.

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